



For immediate release  
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### **Rapid Response Team activated to aid Vanguard Airline employees**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. -- The state Rapid Response Team has been activated to aid workers that were displaced by layoffs at Vanguard Airlines in Kansas City.

In the past month, Vanguard Airline has laid off more than 120 employees, including pilots, flight attendants and ramp workers as a result of the impacts of the September 11 terrorist acts on the nation's airline industry.

"As the events of September 11 continue to impact employment in Missouri's airline industry, state and local agencies are working collaboratively with our counterparts in Kansas to respond to the needs of individuals affected by these extremely unfortunate circumstances," said Missouri Department of Economic Development Director Joseph L. Driskill. "We will do whatever we can to help these individuals find new employment opportunities or take advantage of training programs that can help them develop different skill sets."

The Rapid Response Team is composed of representatives from the Department of Economic Development's Division of Workforce Development (DWD), the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' Division of Employment Security, the University of Missouri Project Refocus and the Full Employment Council. The team responds to the needs of workers who have lost their jobs by providing special training and re-employment services.

Joseph L. Driskill, director of the Department of Economic Development, has directed DWD to assist Vanguard Airline employees by offering Missouri Career Center services.

The Rapid Response Team and Kansas City-area Missouri Career Centers will provide immediate services to workers needing assistance, including assessment and testing, career counseling and resume writing, interviewing skills, job search methods, on-the-job training and tuition assistance for vocational training or education.

The Full Employment Council and DWD are working with the company to ensure that workers have extended access to these free services. Meetings will be held with workers at 9:00 am Wednesday, Oct. 24, and 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 25, at the Kansas City Aviation Center at 601 Brasilia in Kansas City to explain how these services can help them find a new job.

The Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' Division of Employment Security is prepared to quickly process unemployment claims filed by individual workers. Unemployed workers can file unemployment claims using the Internet at [www.ui.dolir.state.mo.us](http://www.ui.dolir.state.mo.us) at any time of the day. Individuals may file claims by telephone during working hours at 816-889-3101 or 1-800-320-2519 if outside the Kansas City area.

Employers interested in hiring Vanguard Airline workers can call **1-800-877-8698**.

Since 1983 -- when Missouri's dislocated worker program was established -- more than 100,000 dislocated workers have participated in the program. Approximately 80 percent of the people assisted by the program find new employment.

Laid-off workers interested in the training and re-employment services offered through the Rapid Response Team can **call DWD at (800) 877-8698 or Steve Dempsey at the Full Employment Council at (816) 471-2330**.

